

DAVID P. RUSS - BIO

Dr. David P. Russ is the Regional Director for the Northeast in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). He is located at the USGS National Center headquarters in Reston, Virginia. A geologist by training, he leads 11 USGS science centers in the Mid-Atlantic and New England region. These Centers conduct a broad range of geologic, biologic, and hydrologic investigations and studies.

From 1970-1972, Dr. Russ served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he was assigned to the Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Dr. Russ began his career with the USGS in 1975 conducting research and coordinating USGS earthquake projects in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in the Mississippi Valley. Much of his efforts centered on detecting and characterizing patterns of surface and subsurface deformation associated with the devastating 1811-12 earthquakes and determining recurrence rates and hazards of earthquakes in the Central United States. He has also conducted earthquake research in China and Europe. In 1982, Dr. Russ became the Deputy Chief of the USGS Office of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Engineering in Reston, Virginia, where he coordinated Earthquake Programs and managed international earthquake projects. In 1987 Dr. Russ was selected as the Assistant Chief Geologist for Program, a position in the Senior Executive Service, where he developed new programs in climate history, coastal geology, deep continental studies, and scientific drilling for the Geologic Division of the USGS. Dr. Russ subsequently served as the Associate Chief Geologist and the Associate Chief Hydrologist of the USGS.

In his current position as Regional Director for the Northeast, Dr. Russ serves as the executive leader of the USGS Chesapeake Bay program and he leads USGS participation on the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the Mid-Atlantic Region Council for the Ocean. He has served as the DOI representative to the steering committee to develop a Federal multiagency research plan for unconventional oil and gas resources related to hydraulic fracturing and he is overseeing the development of an interagency plan to study the potential effects of Appalachian shale gas production on the environment. He is a member of the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative steering committee, chairs the Stakeholder Advisory Committee of the Northeast Climate Science Center, and coordinates USGS participation in the Urban Waters Federal partnership.

Dr. Russ received B.S. (1967) and PhD (1975) degrees from Penn State and an M.S. degree (1969) from West Virginia University, with specialties in geomorphology and structural geology. He is the recipient of the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award. In 2006, Dr. Russ received the Presidential Rank Award as a meritorious executive in the Senior Executive Service for sustained superior accomplishment in management of programs of the U.S. government and for noteworthy achievement of quality and efficiency in the public service.